

Commanding Officer's Statement on Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment/Assault



It should go with out saying that my policy in 1st Battalion, 10th Marines is to TREAT EVERYONE WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT. Treat people how you want to be treated. We were all born equal, rate fair treatment, and should be given the same opportunity to succeed no matter our race, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, or rank. We are the First in the World! Everything we do or fail to do reflects on the Marine Corps and how this Nation views their Armed Forces.

<u>Equal Opportunity</u>: Every Marine and Sailor in this Battalion is charged to enforce the standards and ensure we are an Equal Opportunity organization. Actions and words that can bring discredit upon this unit or the Marine Corps will NOT be tolerated and those responsible with be held accountable and given swift justice. If anyone in this command feels they are being discriminated against, please come forward and be heard. Seek out the Equal Opportunity Officer or someone in your Chain of Command immediately. If anyone in this command witnesses discrimination, it is your duty to come forward and bring the issue to the attention of your chain of command. Discrimination has no place in the Marine Corps or in society. This Battalion can fail in its primary mission to Shoot, Move, and Communicate, before it ever deploys, by derogatory actions and words of individuals that tear apart the Esprit de Corps and Comradery required to succeed in combat.

<u>Sexual Harassment/Assault</u>: This Battalion is our family. We must take care of every Marine and Sailor like they are our own brother or sister. Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault, just like discrimination, have no place in the Marine Corps. IT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED and is a criminal act that will be swiftly and severely punished. Everyone should feel comfortable and at home while a part of this Battalion. For those that have experienced or witnessed sexual harassment or sexual assault, you know the devastation and lifetime scars these events leave on the victim, their family, and their friends. These incidents also tear apart units and degrade combat readiness and effectiveness. You know my number one priority is Mission Accomplishment. Mission First, Marines and Sailors Always! Think before you act. Watch your surroundings and keep yourselves out of dangerous or threating situations. Alcohol is often a contributing factor when an incident takes place and you need to be on higher alert during these times. Take care of your brothers and sisters and be on vigilant watch for any indications and warnings of trouble.

If something happens to a member of this Battalion, I charge all leaders to get that Marine or Sailor to the care and support they need. Witnesses or victims have the obligation to utilize the restricted or unrestricted means of reporting incidents to our Uniformed Victims Advocate. Use it!